Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 21, 34 and 48 as shown in the following listing of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A base module for use in a portable terminal utilizing a communication protocol stack having higher <u>layers</u> and <u>at least one</u> lower layer[[s]], the portable terminal also comprising a communication module having a wireless transceiver and operable to perform the functionality of <u>at least one</u> ~~the~~ lower layer[[s]] of the communication protocol stack, the base module comprising:

a base memory operable to store the higher layers of the communication protocol stack; and

a base processor operable to cooperate with the communication module to effect wireless communication by the communication module, the base processor being operable to perform the functionality of the higher layers of the communication protocol stack stored in the base memory, wherein the base processor does not perform the functionality of at least one lower layer of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the communication module to perform the functionality of said at least one lower layer.

22. (previously presented) The base module of claim 21 wherein the base processor's performance of the functionality of the higher layers of the communication protocol stack enables the base processor to cooperate with a communication module supporting substantially any type of wireless transceiver to effect wireless communication by the communication module.

23. (previously presented) The base module of claim 21 wherein the base module is configured to receive the communication module in an assembled position which communicatively couples the base processor and a module processor of the communication module.

24. (previously presented) The base module of claim 23 further comprising:

a base connector that is communicatively coupled to the base processor and that matingly engages a module connector disposed on the communication module upon receipt of the communication module into the base module in the assembled position.

25. (previously presented) The base module of claim 21 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack comprise power saving functionality.

26. (previously presented) The base module of claim 25 wherein the power saving functionality comprises support for sleeping terminals.

27. (previously presented) The base module of claim 21 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack stored by the base memory and performed by the base processor comprise a sessions layer.

28. (previously presented) The base module of claim 21 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack stored by the base memory and performed by the base processor comprise a transport layer.

29. (previously presented) The base module of claim 21 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack stored by the base memory and performed by the base processor comprise a network layer.

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) The base module of claim 21 wherein the base processor does not perform the functionality of a physical layer of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the communication module to perform the functionality of the physical layer.

32. (previously presented) The base module of claim 21 wherein the base processor does not perform the functionality of a data link layer of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the communication module to perform the functionality of the data link layer.

33. (previously presented) The base module of claim 21 wherein the base memory is operable to store, and the base processor is operable to perform the functionality of, a first subset of a network layer of the communication protocol stack, and wherein the base processor does not perform the functionality of a second subset of the network layer, instead allowing the communication module to perform the functionality of the second subset of the network layer.

34. (currently amended) A communication module for use in a portable terminal utilizing a communication protocol stack having higher layers and at least one lower layer[[s]], the portable terminal also comprising a base module operable to perform the functionality of the higher layers of the communication protocol stack, the communication module comprising:

a wireless transceiver;

a module memory operable to store the said at least one lower layer[[s]] of the communication protocol stack; and

a module processor operable to cooperate with the base module to effect wireless communication by the wireless transceiver, the module processor being operable to perform the functionality of the said at least one lower layer[[s]] of the communication protocol stack stored in the module memory, wherein the module processor does not perform the functionality of at least one the higher layers of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the base module to perform the functionality of said at least one higher layer.

35. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the communication module is configured to couple to the base module in an assembled position which communicatively couples the module processor and a base processor of the base module.

36. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 35 further comprising:

a module connector disposed on the communication module and that matingly engages a base connector that is communicatively coupled to the base processor upon coupling of the communication module with the base module in the assembled position.

37. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise power saving functionality.

38. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 37 wherein the power saving functionality comprises support for sleeping terminals.

39. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise support for roaming.

40. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack support reliable transmission.

41. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise a data link layer.

42. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise a physical layer.

43. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise at least a portion of a network layer.

44. (cancelled)

45. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the module processor does not perform the functionality of a sessions layer of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the base module to perform the functionality of the sessions layer.

46. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the module processor does not perform the functionality of a transport layer of the communication protocol stack, instead allowing the base module to perform the functionality of the transport layer.

47. (previously presented) The communication module of claim 34 wherein the module memory is operable to store, and the module processor is operable to perform the functionality of, a first subset of a network layer of the communication protocol stack, and wherein the module processor does not perform the functionality of a second subset of the network layer, instead allowing the base module to perform the functionality of the second subset of the network layer.

48. (currently amended) A portable terminal utilizing a communication protocol stack having higher layers and at least one lower layer[[s]], the portable terminal comprising:

a base module comprising a base processor and a base memory, the base memory storing the higher layers of the communication protocol stack for use by the base processor;

a communication module comprising a module processor, a module memory, and a wireless transceiver;

the module memory storing the at least one lower layer[[s]] of the communication protocol stack for use by the module processor in communicating with both the base module and the wireless transceiver; and

the base module being configured to receive the communication module in an assembled position which communicatively couples the base processor and module processor.

49. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the module processor, using the lower layers of the communication protocol stack, enables the base processor, using the higher layers of the communication protocol stack, to communicate with the wireless transceiver regardless of which of a plurality of communication modules is selected.

50. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 48 further comprising:

a base connector, disposed on the base module, that is communicatively coupled to the base processor; and

a module connector, disposed on the communication module, that matingly engages the base connector upon receipt of the communication module into the base module in the assembled position.

51. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the higher layers of the communication protocol stack comprise power saving functionality.

52. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprise power saving functionality.

53. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 52 wherein the power saving functionality comprises support for sleeping terminals.

54. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack comprises support for roaming.

55. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack support reliable transmission.

56. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack includes a data link layer.

57. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 48 wherein the lower layers of the communication protocol stack includes at least a portion of a network layer.

58. (previously presented) A portable terminal utilizing a communication protocol stack having a highest layer, at least one middle layer and a lowest layer, the portable terminal comprising:

a base module comprising a base processor and a base memory, the base memory storing a first set of instructions comprising at least the highest layer of the communication protocol stack; and

a communication module comprising a module processor, a module memory, and a wireless transceiver;

the wireless transceiver having a second set of instructions comprising at least the lowest layer of the communication protocol stack;

the module memory storing the second set of instructions;

the module processor using the second set of instructions in communicating with both the wireless transceiver and the base module; and

the base processor using the first set of instructions in communicating with the module processor.

59. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 58 wherein the base module is configured to receive the communication module in an assembled position to communicatively couple the base processor and module processor.

60. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 59 further comprising:

a base connector, disposed on the base module, that is communicatively coupled to the base processor; and

a module connector, disposed on the communication module, that matingly engages the base connector upon receipt of the communication module into the base module in the assembled position.

61. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 58 wherein the second set of instructions comprises at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack.

62. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions comprises power saving functionality.

63. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 62 wherein the power saving functionality comprises support for sleeping terminals.

64. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions comprises support for roaming.

65. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions comprises support reliable transmission.

66. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions includes a data link layer.

67. (previously presented) The portable terminal of claim 61 wherein the at least a portion of the at least one middle layer of the communication protocol stack of the second set of instructions includes at least a portion of a network layer.